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WENENAO

4/29/82

The American business community operating overseas is likewise a product of this world. If another dealing exclusively for the American business community would soon be ideal.

October 7, 1977-Elect

Mr. John Lofton, Jr. sector can be very useful towards United Features a universal respect for human rights. 7603 Erica Lane, Laurel, Md. 20783, however for the Laurel, Md. Government to suggest a code of conduct. Dear Mr. Lofton:

I am replying to your letter on behalf of Patricia Derian, Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, in which you inquired about the role of American businessmen in the area of human rights when trading with the Soviet Union.

Firstly, I would like to apologize wholeheartedly for this delayed response but shall not burden you further with tales of bureaucratic errors and those human with which this particular correspondence has been blessed.

As you know, this Administration is committed to human rights as a focal point of its foreign policy. President Carter, from the moment of his inaugural address and Secretary Vance, from his first major policy speech have delivered the message that American foreign policy is to reflect this new priority.

The American people have endorsed this policy through their votes and their continuing support of U.S. efforts to increase the observance of human rights throughout the world. This concern is consistent with and a reflection of our national heritage which promised freedom for generations of immigrants.

TEL. 546-6555

August 11, 1977

The American business community operating overseas is likewise a product of this heritage. Whether dealing with the Soviet Union or any other country, it would seem exemplary for the American business man or woman to reflect such ideals.

John Lofton, Jr.

Certainly, expressions and behavior of concern from the American private sector can be very useful towards the promotion of a universal respect for human rights. It would not be entirely appropriate, however for the United States Government to suggest a mode of conduct outside the laws that exist for the carrying out of business overseas.

Americans carry abroad with them a tradition of freedom, and as an American citizen he or she has the right and privilege to speak of those things he or she cares about and believes in. Our promotion of a world-wide respect for human rights is ever enhanced by the exercise of such freedoms.

For you information, Ms. Derian is a member of the U.S. delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which is presently underway in Belgrade - a conference we are hopeful, that will shed true light on the sincerity and commitment of all the signatories to the Helsinki Final Act.

Sincerely,

Mary F. Hanley
Public Affairs Adviser
Office of Human Rights and
Humanitarian Affairs

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